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JUN 27 1950  
FACTS TO THINK ABOUT,

*Intemperance*

AND

WHAT'S THE REMEDY?



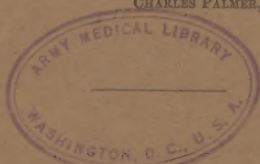
"In nearly all the HOMICIDES which have come under my observation, INTOXICATION has been the primary or immediate cause."—JUDGE PARSONS.

"The good sense of the INHABITANTS OF DELAWARE" must find a remedy.—JUDGE BELL.

"TAXATION is our only resource."—MARK BARTLESON, COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

"INTEMPERANCE has cost the county in eight years THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!"—

CHARLES PALMER, STEWARD OF THE POOR-HOUSE.



PHILADELPHIA:

C. SHERMAN, PRINTER.

1850.

FIRST THOUSAND.

54  
"HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE"

## TESTIMONY,

THROUGH ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS,

BY THE YEARLY MEETINGS OF FRIENDS

FOR PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY, AND THE EASTERN PARTS OF

LIBRARY,  
Bookseller,  
5th & Walnut,  
Philada.

1706.

"Advised that Friends carefully avoid all vain and idle company, sipping, and tippling of drams and strong drinks; for though such who are in that evil practice may not suddenly become drunken to the greatest degree, yet they often thereby become like ground fitted for the seeds of the greatest transgressions; and some who have had the good example of virtuous parents, have, from small beginnings, arrived at a shameful excess, to their ruin, the great injury of their wives and families, and the scandal of the religious profession they have made."

1726.

"It having been observed that a pernicious custom has prevailed in some places, of giving rum and other strong liquors to excite some to bid at vendues to advance the price, which, besides the injustice of the artifice, is scandalous, and leads to intemperance and disorder; it is, therefore, the unanimous sense of this meeting to testify against the same. And if any in membership with us do fall into the evil practice of giving or taking

# FACTS TO THINK ABOUT,

AND

## WHAT'S THE REMEDY?

IN MEDIA VIA TUTISSIME IBIS.

IN MEDIA'S FOOTSTEPS ALL MAY SAFELY FOLLOW.



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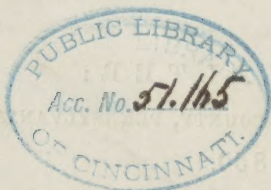
Y. S. WALTER:

CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

1850.

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C. SHERMAN, PRINTER,  
19 St. James Street.





6 MAY 8 1950

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## ADDRESS

FROM THE

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

TO THE

## CITIZENS OF DELAWARE COUNTY.

### FELLOW-CITIZENS:

We address you upon a subject of general interest. We do so, not at our own private suggestion, but by appointment of a meeting of citizens convened at Hinkson's Corner, on the 10th inst. The object of that meeting is shown by the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the lot-holders at the new County Seat, be respectfully requested to take into consideration the importance of incorporating in the Borough Charter, a section forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors within the Charter limits.

*Resolved*, That we, as citizens, being joint owners with our fellow-citizens throughout the County, of the site occupied by the new County Seat, do approve of, and will cordially co-operate in securing the above most desirable object.

These resolutions were adopted by the meeting, and ordered to be transmitted, through a committee, to the meeting of "lot-holders and other citizens," assembled at Providence Tavern. In conformity with their appointment, the committee presented those resolutions, that day, to the meeting of lot-holders and others.

After an interchange of views, it was resolved with great unanimity, to comply with the request contained in the first of the above resolutions. A committee was accordingly appointed to prepare a section embodying the principle; and a second committee, to whom was entrusted the preparation of a charter, was instructed to incorporate such section in the charter to be transmitted to the Legislature.

Our appointment as a committee, has special reference to the second of the above resolutions. The meeting at Hinkson's Corner, composed of citizens from more than one half the townships and incorporated districts of the County, pledged their approval and co-operation in case the lot-holders should adopt their suggestion. This was done. The conditional pledge, therefore, became binding, and it is to be redeemed by eliciting from our fellow-citizens an expression of their approbation of this feature in the charter of our County Seat.

By this statement as to the origin and aim of our appointment, it will be seen that there is nothing in it which can be justly characterized as sectional, partisan, or the fruit of enthusiasm.

It is not sectional. More than half the County was represented at the meeting from which we received our appointment.

It is not partisan. It is not a Temperance Society movement. This was expressly disavowed at the meeting referred to. It is further shown in the fact that a majority of the committee have no connexion with any Temperance Society whatever.

It is no gust of enthusiasm. The winter of life is upon some of our members; and gray hairs, like December snow-flakes, have long since cooled the hot gushings of youthful blood.

No! Fellow-citizens, we approach you under no such character. We have been appointed and discharge our task simply as *citizens*. On temperance, as a distinct subject, our views, as well as yours, differ materially. But on the question, "Whether the best interests of our County require that the sale of intoxicating liquors should be introduced into our County Seat?" We are cordially united in sentiment. We believe that you also will be.

There is one principle, which, like a beam of light, should guide in the determination of this matter. It is this:—CONFORMITY TO THE WISHES AND BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY AT LARGE. By this



principle we pledge ourselves to abide. None can violate it without displacing the foundations of social order.

We proceed, then, with feelings inimical to none, but of good will to all, to state, so far as bears on this subject, *the present position of things at the County Seat.*

And here we are met, at the first glance, with this important and gratifying fact—there are no taverns yet erected, no licenses yet granted.\*

The way is unembarrassed to do what is right, what is best, what you will. It is unnecessary to discuss the validity of the argument which pleads “a pecuniary investment” when a license is to be taken away; for here, happily, that argument has no place.

We start afresh. May we, also, start right.

Another and important feature in the case, is this:—You, fellow-citizens, are owners of a large proportion of the property within the charter limits. This fact gives you the undoubted right to speak influentially, if not authoritatively, as to the important features of that charter.

The parties interested are: 1st. The lot-holders. 2d. The householders old residents, taken into the Borough limits. 3d. Property-holders, in the vicinity. 4th. The citizens, at large, owners in common of the land purchased as the site of the new County Seat.

It only remains for the citizens generally to speak, and all the parties will be heard. We cannot, for a moment, doubt but that your decision will be in harmony with that of those who have already spoken, and declare, emphatically, that the sale of intoxicating liquors at the County Seat, is incompatible with the wishes and the best interests of the County.

Before we close, we would submit, for your consideration, a single remark.

Those who desire the sale of intoxicating liquors, have had their wishes granted times and ways without number. But how rarely has the privilege been granted to a community to live without the

\* This remark has reference to what has been done since the County Seat was located. A tavern, previously existing, has been included in the Borough limits.

sale of intoxicating liquors? Are the evils which result from not selling intoxicating liquors so direful that they are not to be borne? Are the blessings which result from the sale, so precious they cannot be foregone? Why not try *once* the principle we advocate? If the evils resulting from it should prove too great to be borne, the sale of intoxicating liquors can be introduced at any moment; while experience shows that when the sale has been begun, despair itself, groaning under its evils, has scarce courage enough to attempt its eradication. Surely the end we seek is not unreasonable.

But, on the other hand, can you, fellow-citizens, deem it reasonable that a plan which has been tried myriads of times, in myriads of places, with myriads of evils as its invariable results, should, yet again, be forced upon a protesting neighbourhood, an infant community, and an opposing majority of our County? If, in opposition to the majority of lot-holders, of house-keepers, of property-holders in the vicinity, and of citizens throughout the County, a practice, of pecuniary advantage to but few—of ruin to many—of injury to most—of necessity to none—be forced upon this community, where shall we seek a parallel to the wrong? Have families, neighbours, county majorities, no rights on this subject? We will not believe that such wrong can be desired, or will be done.

For the present, we say no more. We have addressed, personally, many of our fellow-citizens on this subject. When we receive their replies, you shall hear further from us. Till then, we remain,

Very respectfully, your fellow-citizens,

JOHN P. CROZER,

WILLIAM T. CROOK,

ENOS SHARPLESS,

JESSE YOUNG, M.D.,

REV. B. S. HUNTINGTON,

JOHN C. BEATTY,

REV. JOSEPH WALKER,

JONATHAN P. ABRAHAMS,

MINSHALL EACHUS,

SAMUEL RIDDLE,

JONATHAN ESREY,

SAMUEL M. LEIPER,

GEORGE SMITH, M.D.

SAMUEL WEST,

HILL BRINTON,

GEORGE G. KNOWLES,

JOHN F. TAYLOR,

JOHN F. VANLEER,

JAMES LEWIS,

WILLIAM T. PIERCE,

REV. N. HESTON,

BISHOP HAWS,

REV. JAMES W. DALE,

*Central Committee.*

## II.

INQUIRY ADDRESSED TO MEMBERS OF THE  
BAR.

The following inquiry was addressed, respectively, to Judge Parsons of Philadelphia, who has had long and ample experience in the criminal business of Courts; to Judge Bell, late President Judge of this Judicial District, now of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; and to the other gentlemen whose letters are given below, all within this Judicial District; to wit: "*What does your experience show to be the connexion, if any, between the use of intoxicating liquors and the criminal business of our Courts?*"

Philadelphia, January 23d, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

Your letter of the 22d inst., as Chairman of the "Central Committee in Chester," was received this day, in which you request an answer to the following inquiry: "What is the connexion, if any, between the use of intoxicating liquors, and the criminal business of our Courts?"

In reply to this question, I have no hesitation in saying, from my observation, during nearly ten years' experience upon the bench, in more than three-fourths of all the crimes, where the offenders have been tried before me, the prominent *cause* could be traced to the excessive use of ardent spirits. In nearly all the homicides which have come under my observation in this county (and sometimes I have been compelled to participate in the trial of from ten to fifteen a year), intoxication has been the primary or immediate cause of the perpetration of the offence.

Frequently in cases of larceny and burglary, I have been able to trace the origin of the crime to the same cause. In most of the assaults and batteries, and in nearly all of the riot cases which come before us, we have found that the individuals charged, were more or

less excited with liquor when engaged in a violation of the law. I am satisfied, if none of our firemen ever went to a tavern or grog-shop, there would be no riots among our fire companies. In short, to the excessive use of ardent spirits among our young men and the lower orders of society, may be traced nearly all the disturbances of the public peace which occur in this metropolis. And since the Legislature, by an act passed at its last session, has given to every man the right to sell liquor in this city and county, who will pay a certain sum of money, the increase of crime and disturbances of the public peace has been fearful. At each Court the bills of indictment have been multiplied greatly.

Intoxication deranges the mind to a certain extent; self-control is lost, restraint upon the evil passions of the human heart is greatly weakened if not entirely destroyed, and crime is almost the necessary consequence.

In my opinion, if we look to a community where there is no sale of intoxicating drinks, we shall find but few violations of law. But where they are sold without limit, and temptation is constantly presented to those who have not the moral firmness to resist its delusive influence, there crimes will be numerous and continually multiplying.

Such is the opinion deliberately formed from a close observation of crime; an investigation of its cause; and noticing its results during my experience as a Judge. If it is entitled to your consideration and that of the committee, I cheerfully express it with that spirit of frankness indicated in your communication.

I am, with high respect,

Your obedient servant,

A. V. PARSONS.

---

Philadelphia, January 23d, 1850.

Gentlemen—

Your favour of the 16th inst., owing to a misdirection, did not reach me till yesterday, to which fact I beg you will ascribe the delay of my answer.



In responding to the question you propound, you will not, of course, expect me, nor do I propose to enter upon an elaborate statement of the many evils resulting from intemperance, or attempt to give a detailed account of the observations my official position has enabled me to make, of its effects upon men considered in reference to their social relations and duties. Its baleful influence in the production of crime has been so often pointed to, and graphically described by others, enjoying equal opportunity with myself to arrive at correct conclusions, as to render repetition unnecessary. It may suffice to say, that my experience—and it has been of some extent—accords with the many testimonies on this subject, which from time to time have been given to the public. In truth, no one can long be occupied in administering the criminal justice of the country without becoming painfully aware that a very large percentage of the indictable misdemeanors that afflict the community, and people our prisons, is ascribable, directly or indirectly, to the free use of intoxicating drinks.

Whether it will be possible, entirely, to suppress its use at the new County Seat, or expedient to attempt it, by calling in the aid of special legislation, it is not within my province to determine. Indeed, on looking a second time at your letter, I perceive you have not asked for the expression of an opinion on that point, which must be left to the good sense of the inhabitants of Delaware.

I beg you to believe, gentlemen, that it affords me peculiar pleasure to find myself again in communication with a portion of the people of your county, where I was received as a friend for many pleasant years. That, as a magistrate, I enjoyed the confidence of your citizens, will ever mingle with my most cheering and encouraging recollections. I pray you to accept my thanks for the kind manner in which you are pleased to repeat the assurance of this gratifying fact.

I am, very respectfully,

Yours,

THOS. S. BELL,

To JOHN P. CROZER, Esq., Chairman,

And other gentlemen, members of the Central Committee.

West Chester, February 7th, 1850.

Gentlemen—

Your favour of the 4th inst., with the inquiry, “What is your experience as to the connexion, if any, between the use of intoxicating liquors and the criminal business of our Courts?” is before me. In reply I may say, that from an experience of twenty-seven years in attendance upon the Courts of this county, and over ten years in Delaware County, and a connexion with the prison of Chester County as one of the Inspectors for the greater part of the last ten years, I have arrived at the conclusion that *three-fourths* of the criminal business of these counties has its origin, mediately or immediately, in the use of intoxicating liquors. This is, of course, but *estimate*, and precision cannot be arrived at. It is abundantly sufficient, however, to warrant us in making the effort to exclude from our borders a traffic productive of so little good, and so extensive mischief. I trust your wishes as to the new seat of justice of Delaware County, may be crowned with success.

Yours, truly,

WM. DARLINGTON.

To JOHN P. CROZER, Esq., Chairman,  
And others of the Committee.

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An experience founded upon an intercourse of twenty years with the business of the Courts of this county, and knowledge obtained as one of the Inspectors of the Chester County Prison, enables me fully to concur in Mr. Darlington's statement.

Having prosecuted for the Commonwealth in Delaware County for six years, I may add further, that if I were to judge from my observation during that time alone, I should say, the proportion of crime which resulted from the use of intoxicating liquors was still larger.

You have my most ardent wishes for success in your efforts to exclude the use of intoxicating liquors from your new County Seat.

Very truly,

Yours,

P. FRAZER SMITH.

Messrs. JNO. P. CROZER,  
And others, Committee.

Gentlemen—

I am satisfied from my experience in the criminal courts of this Judicial District, in which I have practised about twenty-five years, that the connexion between intemperance and crime is direct and intimate; but I have never made an estimate of the proportion of offences originating in the use of intoxicating liquors, and I hardly know how to make one that could be justly deemed of any value, without a reference to a data not within my reach. The proportion, however, is certainly large enough to justify the most strenuous efforts of all who love their fellow-men, and are concerned for their welfare, to limit the sales of liquor, and thus lessen the opportunities for indulgence. In listening to the recitals of the personal histories of those who have made themselves amenable to the criminal law, I have been struck with the frequency with which the blame of the first error has been attributed to intoxicating drinks; and it has been very obvious that in cases in which intemperance has been the consequence rather than the cause of a departure from rectitude, it has greatly aggravated the moral depravity of the subject, and rendered his condition more helpless and hopeless.

I am, with the highest respect,

Very truly, yours,

JOSEPH J. LEWIS.

JOHN P. CROZER, Esq., Chairman,  
And others, Committee.

---

Chester, February 25th, 1850.

J. P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

I have just received yours of the 22d inst., propounding the following inquiry: "What does your experience show to be the connexion between the use of intoxicating drinks and the criminal business of our courts."

To this I may answer, that my observation of the criminal business of our courts enables me to say, that almost all the cases below the degree of felony have their origin directly in inebriety; and that of

those above that degree, by far the majority of criminals have been first led to the commission of crime by the use of intoxicating drinks.

In short, I believe there would be little use for criminal courts, if such drinks were entirely disused.

Yours, with respect,

J. W. BROOMALL.

### III.

#### INQUIRIES ADDRESSED TO CLERGYMEN.

The following inquiry was addressed to the clergymen of our county, to wit: "*What does your observation and reflection lead you to determine respecting the moral influence, on individuals and communities, of the use of intoxicating drinks?*"

January 21st, 1850.

TO J. P. CROZER, CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF DELAWARE  
COUNTY TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

To the question, "What does your observation and reflection lead you to determine respecting the moral influence, upon individuals and communities, of the habitual use of intoxicating drinks?" I reply: 1st, *With respect to individuals.* It impairs the reason, blunts the moral sensibilities, destroys domestic peace and comfort, and endangers the lives of family and friends, as is abundantly corroborated by the frequent murders committed under its influence.

2d, *With respect to communities.* Its influence is blighting and withering. To the progress of art and science, public enterprise and civil prosperity, it is paralysing; and I believe the State Legislature could not confer a greater blessing upon Delaware County than to prohibit by law the traffic in the new borough, or permit the citizens of the county to decide the question by voluntary suffrage.

Yours, respectfully and truly,

A. B. HARD.



Chester, January 25th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

My dear Sir—

With directions to address to you a reply, the following inquiry has been sent me per mail, viz.: "What does your observation and reflection lead you to determine respecting the moral influence, on individuals and communities, of the habitual use of intoxicating drinks?"

My observation leads me to pronounce "the habitual use of intoxicating drinks" an *evil* of very great magnitude, and my reflection leads me to say, that *too much* counteracting influence *cannot* be employed! It is an evil that turns the fruit and grain which God has given for the support of nature into *poison* most deadly.

Respecting its influence on individuals and communities, observation and reflection both lead me to determine that it impoverishes families, pushes many a wife and her children into want and wretchedness, and brutalizes the husband and father! It *perverts* society, and pushes Justice from her seat! The fires of its wasting have swept over the land, and its wrecks have been scattered on the waves of every sea!

Trusting that God may raise up some more powerful barrier to this evil, and that His blessing may attend all efforts for its overthrow, I subscribe myself,

Yours, most sincerely, &c.,

NEWTON HESTON.

Marcus Hook, January 18th, 1850.

Dear Sir—

In pursuance of a communication from the secretary of a committee appointed by the Delaware County Temperance Society at its last quarterly meeting (of which committee you are chairman), we proceed to answer a question, proposed to us by said committee, viz.: "What does your observation and reflection lead you to determine

respecting the moral influence of the habitual use of intoxicating drinks on individuals and communities." To which we reply, we have arrived at the same conclusion with thousands of our fellow-men, of all professions and all countries, respecting the moral influence of the habitual use of intoxicating drinks; we believe that it is more deleterious, to the morals of individuals and communities, than any other habit known among civilized men.

JOSEPH WALKER,  
THEOPHILUS JONES,  
THOS. A. FERNLEY.

TO J. P. CROZER,  
Chairman Central Committee.

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Chester, January 16th, 1850.

MR. JOHN P. CROZER.

Dear Sir—

Your communication of the 14th inst. calls for the results of my "observation and reflection respecting the moral influence, on individuals and communities, of the habitual use of intoxicating drinks." I may forbear, therefore, the detail of the facts and principles upon which my observation and reflection have been founded.

In regard to the individual, I have observed, that the habitual use of intoxicating drinks weakens the perception, and counteracts the force of moral distinctions.

In regard to communities; that the thrift, good order, and morality of any community is in direct proportion to its abstinence from the use and sale of such drinks.

Respecting the contemplated Borough, which is to be the seat of Justice for this county, I beg leave to express my conviction, that, by the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors within its limits, it will attain to the maximum of prosperity, will be blessed with a moral and order-loving population, and will insure to the people of

the county the most speedy and equitable adjustment of their civil, political, and legal rights.

Very respectfully yours,

CHARLES W. QUICK,

Rector of St. Paul's Church, in the Borough of Chester.

---

Rose Hill Manse, January 22d, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ.

Dear Sir—

I herewith send you my reply to the question proposed by the committee of the Delaware County Temperance Society, to be addressed to clergymen in this county.

Everywhere, so far as my observation has extended, the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage has been productive of unhappy consequences. Beastly intemperance is apt to become frequent where these drinks are generally used; and intemperance becomes the radiating point for all crime. Its effect is to harden the heart, break down conscience, urge on every passion to a high pitch of excitement—make men disregard law and right, and prepare them for the perpetration of the most heaven-daring crimes. Sabbath-breaking, profaneness, thefts, murders, and various other sins I have observed in various parts of the land to be associated with this vice, or to spring from it as spontaneous productions. It converts the once dutiful son, the kind father, the affectionate husband, the good neighbour, the upright citizen, in numerous instances, into raving maniacs, and sends them, after the most frightful tortures of *delirium tremens*, to an untimely grave; or transforms them into moral pests of the community. It changes, as by some magic power, health into disease, blasts the fairest prospects, annihilates the proudest hopes, saps the foundations of the purest virtue, and leaves the individual wrecked of every moral and religious interest.

Who can recount the fearful evils of this vice? The bitter agonies of the broken-hearted wife; the sorrows of the desolate widow; the

heart-piercing cries of the famishing children of its doomed and ruined victims, have tingled on our ears, and made society shudder.

As a minister of the gospel, I have found intemperance to be one of the most powerful causes to impede the progress of the gospel in every community where it prevails. More excommunications from the church where I have laboured in the cause of Christ, and where I have had an opportunity to mark its ruinous march, have occurred from this cause than from any other sin. It has plucked down and ruined some of the brightest ornaments of the Christian Church, and sent mourning into the ranks of God's people. Every one of us has been pained and mortified at the loss of some dear relatives and friends from the attacks of this "all-pervading destroyer."

It is true, a glorious reform in respect to the use of intoxicating drinks has been progressing in our land. Still a great work remains to be achieved. If intemperance continues to come in again like a flood upon our land, as it has for some time past, and nothing is done to check its desolating course, we shall be soon again on the verge of ruin. Every motive of patriotism, honour, interest, and religion, prompts to decisive action and effective measures. There is a demand for the services of all classes in promoting the temperance reform. Let all come to the rescue. Let the *religious and secular press* again sound the alarm and encourage to noble efforts.

Let the *ministers of our holy religion* speak, boldly and clearly, the truth on this question. Let the *various temperance organizations* be courageous and uncompromising in their efforts.

Let *men of influence, magistrates, and civil officers*, ever be ready to lend their influence and counsel in plans to suppress intemperance, and to help on the great work.

Let the *medical profession, the members of the bar, and our judges* stand at the post of duty. Let the *young* with their ardour, the *old* with their mature judgment, *man* with his strength, and *woman* with her winning sympathy, enlist in our cause, and with the blessing of God, we shall succeed.

Yours truly in the best bonds,

MARCUS E. CROSS.



Crookton Manse, March 6th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

Facts outweigh opinions. Let me, therefore, answer the inquiry of the Central Committee by advertng to a few *facts* coming under my notice in Delaware County. I have heard from lips, to which the cup had just been held, fearful words of profanity. I have heard the young man, an outcast from his father's house, bewail the demon influence that ruled over him. I have heard one, under the burning gripe of *mania a potu*, moan out "*Oh! I don't want to die!*" I have seen a wife deserted by a drunken husband. I have seen a father drunk in the presence of his child. I have seen a family, abandoned by a husband and father, carried to the poor-house. I have seen a respectable citizen phrensied by liquor, dragged into jail as a violator of the peace. I have seen the teamster lie in the road, drunk, while his sober horses stood patiently by his side. I have seen a man, appointed guardian of property to the value of scores of thousands of dollars, too drunk to fulfil his task. I have seen the victim of intoxicating drink lie on his bed with his throat cut by his own hand! And I have witnessed, at the deathbed, the last flickering of a life quenched by the bowl!

If facts like these, multiplied as the stars of the firmament, which tell of the young man's hopes blighted, and of the old man's honour brought down to the dust; of marriage vows broken, and of a parent's trust forsaken; of a citizen's respectability buried in the jail, and the labouring man's integrity crushed under a cart-wheel; property wasted, health dissipated, life consumed, the soul neglected and God blasphemed! If in facts like these *there be immorality!* then, *such is the use of intoxicating liquor*; for in each drop of the cup lurks such a fact ready to spring, as a ravenous beast, upon its prey!

Yours truly,

JAMES W. DALE.

## IV.

## INQUIRIES ADDRESSED TO PHYSICIANS.

The following inquiries were addressed to physicians throughout the county, to wit:

1. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *necessary* in a state of health?
2. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *beneficial* in a state of health?
3. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *deleterious* in a state of health?
4. Is there a marked unanimity in the medical profession on these points?

5. Is the sentiment of the profession correctly represented in the following language of Professor Wood, of the University of Pennsylvania, and of Professor Bache, of the Jefferson Medical School, Philadelphia, viz.: "As an article of daily and dietetic use, alcoholic liquors produce the most deplorable consequences. Besides the moral degradation which they cause, their habitual use gives rise to dyspepsia, hypochondriasis, visceral obstructions, dropsy, paralysis, and not unfrequently mania."

"*Effects as a poison.* When taken in a large quantity, alcohol, in the form of various ardent spirits, produces a true apoplectic state, and occasionally speedy death. The face becomes livid or pale, the respiration stertorous, the mouth frothy, and sense and feeling are more or less completely lost."

Upper Darby, January 22d, 1850.

Gentlemen—

Your communication, addressed to me as a member of the medical profession, and requesting replies to certain queries, on the use of intoxicating drinks, therein contained, was not received until some days after its date. In complying with your request, I do so with the full conviction that my views can add but little to the mass of medical testimony that could be readily cited upon the subject.

In answer to your first interrogatory, "Is the use of intoxicating

liquors *necessary* in a state of health?" I give an unequivocal negative. The administration of spirituous liquors, even in a moderate quantity to a person in health, has the effect, at first, of increasing the actions of the nervous and vascular systems above the natural and healthy standard. The dose not being repeated, a corresponding depression of the vital powers shortly ensues. Neither of these conditions of the system is compatible with perfect health.

2. "Is the use of intoxicating liquors *beneficial* in a state of health?" What is not necessary can scarcely be beneficial, and I might reply to this query with a general negative; but, remembering well when the belief in the beneficial effects resulting from the use of spirituous liquors, under certain circumstances, was general throughout the country, and still may exist to some extent, I will notice this query more in detail.

It was formerly supposed that severe labour, such as that of harvest, could not be performed without the aid of stimulating drinks. Experience, of latter years, has abundantly proven the incorrectness of this opinion.

It has also been supposed that the use of alcoholic drinks would prevent the evil effects of cold water, when drank by persons while much heated. This I regard as a decided mistake; while, on the other hand, I doubt not the use of liquor has in many instances contributed to produce the high degree of excitement in the system, during which large draughts of cold water have proven injurious. The prevailing notion, that spirituous liquors enable the system to resist the effects of severe cold, is equally erroneous. It is true, a momentary glow of heat over the body may be produced, when taken in moderate quantities, but the secondary effect on the brain and nervous system (and this effect quickly ensues), is nearly or quite the same as that produced from the cold itself.

3. "Is the use of intoxicating drinks *deleterious* in a state of health?" There is probably no article that is not beneficial and useful to the system, that can be taken into the stomach as food or drink with entire impunity. At all events, I am sure that no exception can be claimed in favour of alcoholic drinks; for although the deleterious effects resulting from their use are not so immediately perceptible as those resulting from the use of other drugs, yet those

effects are equally certain in a short time to ensue, and are more dreadful in their consequences. Probably no one, at first, resorts to these drinks from any innate appetite he may have for them. A desire not to appear singular, or in compliance with immemorial custom, he takes his place in the ranks of the army of the most despotic of tyrants that ever ruled over the destinies of mankind; and as occasion requires, from time to time takes the fatal bounty that ever after secures his allegiance to this tyrant, and this in full view of the physical evils and moral degradation that await him, and in defiance of the remonstrances of his friends, and the convictions of his own judgment.

A morbid appetite for alcoholic drinks always precedes any permanent organic or functional derangement of the system, and as it is the first, so it may be regarded as the worst of the train of evils that are incident to the habitual use of intoxicating drinks. Always present, urging its victim to repeated indulgence, it soon gains a complete ascendancy over him, and in the end brings about one or more of the diseases enumerated in your fifth query, with the moral degradation, poverty, and vice that are the almost certain accompaniments of drunkenness. It is true, that now and then an individual, by a superior effort, releases himself from the thralldom of this morbid appetite, and by almost superhuman perseverance places himself beyond the pale of its awful cravings, yet the instances are comparatively few where these efforts have been permanent. To save the youth of our country, then, from contracting this fatal appetite—to warn them against the remote approaches to this insidious whirlpool, from whose dreadful vortex so few have escaped from ruin and death—should the energies of the philanthropist be especially directed.

In reply to your 4th interrogatory I may say, that so far as I am advised, there is a very general and marked unanimity of opinion in the medical profession, that the use of intoxicating drinks is not *necessary* in a state of health, that it is not *beneficial*, but on the contrary is highly *deleterious*, and even in disease the cases are few requiring their administration. The sentiment of the profession in respect to the effects of alcoholic liquors, as an article of daily



dietetic use, and also as a poison, is correctly represented in the language of Professors Wood and Bache, cited in your 5th interrogatory.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

GEO. SMITH.

MESSRS. JOHN P. CROZER,

Chairman,

JAMES W. DALE,

Secretary Central Committee, &c.

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Chester, January 30th, 1850.

J. P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

A Central Committee of great respectability, and purporting to represent a large portion of the citizens of Delaware County, through you as Chairman, have requested my views as a member of the medical profession, in reference to the following questions:

1. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *necessary* in a state of health?

Answer. No.

2. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *beneficial* in a state of health?

Answer. No.

3. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *deleterious* in a state of health?

Answer. Yes, as a beverage or habit.

4. Is there a marked unanimity in the medical profession on these points?

Answer. I cannot conceive of a dissenting member.

5. Is the sentiment of the profession correctly represented in the following language of Professor Wood, of the Medical Department in the University of Pennsylvania, and of Professor Bache, of the Jefferson Medical School, Philadelphia, viz.: "As an article of daily and dietetic use, alcoholic liquors produce the most deplorable consequences. Besides the moral degradation which they cause, their habitual use gives rise to dyspepsia, hypochondriasis, visceral obstructions, dropsy, paralysis, and not unfrequently mania."

To this catalogue of diseases produced by the above *cause*, as *stated*, I as one of the profession, answer in the affirmative.

“*Effects as a poison.* When taken in a large quantity, alcohol, in the form of various ardent spirits, produces a true apoplectic state, and occasionally speedy death. The face becomes livid or pale, the respiration stertorous, the mouth frothy, and sense and feeling are more or less completely lost.”

This unhappy state, terminating in death, I have witnessed in my practice.

Yours, with respect,

WILLIAM GRAY.

I entirely concur with the views expressed by Doctor William Gray in this communication.

J. M. ALLEN.

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Chester, Monday, January 21st, 1850.

Dear Sir—

Late on Saturday evening last, I received a communication requesting me to forward to you, at my “earliest convenience,” answers to certain interrogatories therein contained. In compliance with that request, I hasten to furnish the required answers.

1. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *necessary* in a state of health?
2. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *beneficial* in a state of health?
3. Is the use of intoxicating liquors *deleterious* in a state of health?
4. Is there a marked unanimity in the medical profession on these points?

In answer to Nos. 1 and 2, I answer No; to the 3d, Yes; and 4th, Yes.

On no subject connected with the science of medicine, is there a more marked unanimity than on the points referred to. Nor is this unanimity the result of *theoretical views*, nor of prejudiced opinions in favour of total abstinence societies, or principles, but of the strictest principles of the philosophy of human nature. In fact, long before I ever heard tell of such a thing as a temperance society, I

had learned, in the prosecution of my professional studies, both in the books and the lecture-room, that these were established facts in medical philosophy.

5. Is the sentiment of the profession correctly represented in the following language of Professor Wood, &c., &c., viz. :

“As an article of daily and dietetic use, alcoholic liquors produce the most deplorable consequences. Besides the moral degradation which they cause, their habitual use gives rise to dyspepsia, hypochondriasis, visceral obstructions, dropsy, paralysis, and not unfrequently mania.”

“*Effects as a poison.* When taken in a large quantity, alcohol, in the form of various ardent spirits, produce a true apoplectic state, and occasionally speedy death. The face becomes livid or pale, the respiration stertorous, the mouth frothy, and sense and feeling are more or less completely lost.”

Answer. Yes. There is not a physician living, who has studied his profession systematically, who does not admit the correctness of the sentiments contained therein. Do you ask, why then does any physician become intemperate? I answer, that here perhaps is not the place to enter into a lengthy disquisition on this particular point; but I'll assure you 'tis not owing to his denial of the truths contained in the above quotations.

Hoping these answers, concise as they are, may prove satisfactory,

I remain your friend,

J. YOUNG.

JOHN P. CROZER, Esq.,

Chairman Central Committee, &c.

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Chester, February 16th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND REV.  
JAMES W. DALE, SECRETARY.

Gentlemen—

I received your communication, requesting a reply to certain interrogatories in my professional capacity, and hasten accordingly to

make it, premising my wish that these queries had been put in a more general and less specific form, as then admitting a more general affirmative answer. To the 1st interrogatory, "Is the use of intoxicating liquors *necessary* in a state of health?" I reply, certainly not; and in my mind, the professional character adds no weight to the opinion, since the common sense of mankind and the experience of every adult individual is conclusive on the subject. "2d. Is it beneficial?" that is, I presume, in a *state of health*. I answer, that it would be necessary for the interrogators to define what they mean by "a state of health." If they use the phrase in its most perfect sense, that is, as implying not only the absence of disease, but the full and perfect *sense* of health that results from the due performance of all the functions, then I say No! Under such circumstances *never* beneficial; but if by health is merely meant the absence of disease, then I say that there *are* conditions of the system when it is manifestly beneficial; and this opinion is corroborated, if necessary, by the authority of the most eminent physician the United States has ever produced, and the most illustrious champion the cause of temperance has ever enlisted from the ranks of medicine; I mean Dr. Benjamin Rush. To the 3d question, "Is it (intoxicating liquor) deleterious?" I respond, surely; evidently so, in *that* condition wherein it is not necessary, and emphatically so in *most* of the morbid changes incident to humanity. "4th. Is there a marked unanimity in the medical profession on these points?" I reply, most of them are self-evident propositions, that enforce assent from all; while to that particular query which demands, "Is intoxicating liquor *ever* necessary?" the response, involving as it does the essence of the temperance question, will necessarily present every shade of opinion; and the most judicious, as well as the most conscientious and candid may be pardoned the casuistry, that disregarding all distinctions and limitations, allows their expressed opinions to reflect the hues of the time in all their intensity. What then may be expected from the insincere, the venal, or the fanatical? 5th. "Is the sentiment of the profession?" &c., &c. The general sense of medical men is undoubtedly conveyed in the remarks of the authors of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, under the article "Alcohol."

The undue use of alcoholic liquors is pregnant with *all* the terri-



ble consequences they enumerate, and with many more to which they do not advert, while the daily use of them is inexpedient, in an economical point of view, and dangerous to say the least, on this ground; that there is a law of the system which in general ordains, that where the impressibility is impaired by an accustomed stimulant, the excitability is to be kept up either by an increase of the dose, or a more frequent repetition of it.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES J. PORTER.

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Chester, Feb. 20th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

I have received your letter of the 13th, wherein, as chairman of the Central Committee, you propound several questions touching the use or necessity of intoxicating liquors in a state of health; the beneficial and injurious results; also desiring me to state, if there is much unanimity of opinion in the medical profession on these points, and if the sentiment of the profession is correctly represented by Drs. Wood and Bache, in their remarks on alcoholic drinks.

I cheerfully comply with your expressed desire for an answer, and unhesitatingly reply;

1st, That the use of intoxicating liquor is not necessary in a state of health.

2d, That having no power to lessen the effects of ordinary labour on the body, its use is not beneficial.

3d, That it is deleterious, inasmuch as, whether used habitually, moderately, or in excessive quantities, it always diminishes the strength of the body, and renders men more susceptible of disease and unfit for any service in which vigour and activity are required.

I believe that a large majority of medical men entertain the opinion here expressed, and fully concur with Drs. Wood and Bache in their remarks on alcoholic drinks (U. S. Disp. p. 58), and the evil resulting from its adoption as an article of "daily and dietetic use."

I am very respectfully yours,

J. BONSALE.

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Ridley, January 25th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., AND REV. JAMES W. DALE.

My dear Sirs—

Your communication dated at Chester, January 16th, 1850, was duly received; a press of professional duties delayed the answer to your inquiries until the present.

I will endeavour to answer your inquiries, not exactly in detail, but in such a way as the subject may present itself to my view, viz. :—

1st *Query*. "Is the use of intoxicating liquors necessary in a state of health?" From a thorough examination of the subject, my answer is that they are never necessary; but on the contrary, from the continued use of ardent spirits, such as brandy, rum, and whiskey, the irritability of the stomach and other viscera is worn out, and indirect debility is produced, and dryness of the muscular fibre, prematurely hastening the approach of age.

2d *Query*. "Is the use of intoxicating liquors beneficial in a state of health?" It is never beneficial, but is always injurious—I make no exceptions. The injury may not be immediately perceptible, still there will be an injury done: nature in her course will be disordered, the beautiful and complicated machine will be accelerated in its motion, and disturbed in its action, by an unnatural force put upon the whole economy, requiring a struggle to overcome the effect produced by the use of a destructive poison. Intoxicating

liquors produce an unnatural excitement of the muscular system, and give an unnatural velocity to the blood.

3d *Query*. "Is the use of intoxicating liquors deleterious in a state of health?" Ardent spirit, such as brandy, rum, and whiskey, acts on the living body as a most violent stimulus; it coagulates the fluids, and corrugates the solids. When received into the stomach (undiluted) it contracts all the solid parts with which it comes in contact, and destroying, at least for a time, their use and office; and from the long continued use of intoxicating liquors many diseases derive their origin. Wine may be said to sap the constitution by degrees; spirits, on the contrary, attack it by storm, and at once prey on the principle of life.

To your 5th *Query*, I will add, that Professor Wood has "correctly represented the sentiments of the profession."

The use of intoxicating liquors in health, is ruinous to integrity, to bodily health, to social and domestic enjoyment, and in short, it is an evil unmingled with the least particle of good. The regions of eternal night cannot send forth anything more disastrous.

Yours, with high esteem,

J. W. GRIFFITHS, M. D.

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Aston, January 25th, 1850.

MR. J. P. CROZER.

Sir—

I received yours yesterday evening, in which you ask five questions on intoxicating liquors.

To the first, I reply, that it is not necessary in a state of health to use spirituous liquors.

To the second; it is not beneficial.

To your third question; it is deleterious.

To your fourth question, whether there is unanimity in the Medical Profession on these points? I would reply, that authors differ very much in their writings on the effect of spirituous liquors,

yet the most of them, if not all, agree that the habitual use engenders disease in a great degree.

5th. I am of the opinion, that if my pen was dipped in tears of blood it could not elucidate half of the evil effect it has on the human mind; nor can the pencil of the best limner on earth paint the deplorable condition of that mind under the influence of spirituous liquors.

Yours,

PHINEHAS PRICE.

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Providence, February 20th, 1850.

TO JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., PRESIDENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND  
JAMES W. DALE, SECRETARY.

Gentlemen—

Your favour, dated Chester, January 16th, 1850, desiring in behalf of many citizens certain information from the medical profession, in relation to the effects of intoxicating liquors upon the human constitution, came duly to hand. It affords me much pleasure to comply with your request, and accordingly furnish the following answers. Alcohol in any of its various forms, as recognised in all the intoxicating liquors of commerce, is not found per se in nature, and were we devoid of medical testimony in relation to the *established fact*, that intoxicating liquors are unnecessary, the presumption would naturally follow, that therefore their internal use was not designed for man by his Creator, inasmuch as alcohol is formed by the destructive and fermentative action of animal and vegetable products, as they are passing into a state of decay, and that by a singular yet peculiar metamorphosis, the breaking of an atom of grape sugar, into those of alcohol, water, and carbonic acid. It argues, therefore, that alcohol is not designed for internal use, since it is not found as an integral part of nature. How then can it be beneficial in a state of health? If the various functions of the animal economy are equally balanced among themselves, as for instance digestion and absorption, with



respiration and sanguinification, and these again with innervation and secretion, the individual is said to be in a state of health; but if digestion is stimulated, the lungs and brain excited, all the other functions, must be proportionably so too, or disease results. But if the activity in one of the functions is balanced by an equal degree in one or all the other functions, the individual may thus be said to live out his life faster than if no stimulant had been taken, hence intoxicating liquors cannot be beneficial in a state of health. "Are liquors deleterious, and is there a marked unanimity in the medical profession on these points?" On the 27th of December, as far back as 1790 (and the opinion of the schools is the same now), the college of physicians addressed a memorial to the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled, in the following words: "It belongs to men of other professions to enumerate the pernicious effects of distilled liquors upon morals and manners; your memorialists will only remark, that a great proportion of the most obstinate, painful, and mortal diseases, which afflict the human body, are produced by distilled spirits, and that they are not only destructive to health and life, but that they impair the functions of the mind, and thereby tend equally to dishonour our character as a nation and to degrade our species as intelligent beings. The habitual use of distilled liquors, in any case whatever, is wholly unnecessary; they neither fortify the body against the morbid effects of heat or cold, nor render labour more easy, nor more productive, and there are many articles of diet and drink, which are not only safe, and perfectly salutary, but preferable to distilled spirits for the above-mentioned purposes." In regard to your fifth interrogatory, we would reply, that the sentiments of Wood and Bache (as quoted in your communication) are very generally endorsed by the medical profession.

Yours, respectfully,

J. ROWLAND.

To JOHN P. CROZER, Esq.,

REV. JAMES W. DALE,

And others of the Central Committee.

Village Green, January 29th, 1850.

MR. J. P. CROZER.

Dear Sir—

I received a note from Rev. Mr. Dale, containing some inquiries in reference to the use of intoxicating liquors, requesting my answer; and desiring me to address my reply to you, as Chairman of the Central Committee, &c.

1. "Is the use of intoxicating liquors necessary in a state of health?" I answer No.

2. "Is it beneficial in Health?" No.

3. "Is it deleterious in health?" Without hesitation I answer, to a greater or less extent.

And 4. "Is there a marked unanimity in the medical profession on these points?" I answer, I believe there is no discrepancy of opinion; all agree in their non-utility and deleterious effects in health.

Doctors Wood and Bache correctly represent the sentiment of the medical profession. And I might very properly add, predisposes the system to aggravated attacks of the whole catalogue of diseases, increases their virulence, and renders them less controllable by medicinal agents.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

S. A. BARTON.

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Forest Hill, February 11th, 1850.

TO JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE, ETC.

Dear Sir—

I have received your favour of the 4th inst., in which certain inquiries are presented in reference to the use of alcoholic stimuli. In reply I would state—

1. That the use of intoxicating liquors is not necessary in a state of health.

2. That such employment, far from being *beneficial* in health, is (3.) most frequently decidedly *deleterious*.

To your fourth interrogatory I would reply, that there is a marked unanimity of opinion in the medical profession on these points.

The effects produced upon the human constitution, by the daily and dietetic use of alcholic liquors, have been most truthfully and graphically delineated by Professors Wood and Bache.

But although alcholic stimuli are productive of the evils above spoken of when used habitually, yet circumstances are often presented in which their employment is imperiously demanded. This being the case, I would submit to you, whether it would be expedient to forbid the sale of alcohol under all circumstances? In some of the New England towns, the sale is restricted, I am informed, to the apothecaries, who vend it by the ounce.\*

Very respectfully yours,

C. W. PENNOCK, M. D.

\* Provision of the character suggested is made in the charter.—C. C.

## V.

## INQUIRIES ADDRESSED TO MANUFACTURERS.

The following inquiries were addressed to manufacturers of the county, to wit: 1. "What has been the influence of the use of intoxicating liquors on individuals and families, as developed in your business relations?"

2. "Has that influence been of such a character as to induce you to encourage its diffusion among those in your employ?"

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Crookville, February 12th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

I duly received your favour of the 18th ult., and beg to apologize for not giving it earlier attention.

In reply to your queries, I would state that I am fully convinced that the use of intoxicating liquors on individuals and families connected with my business is most ruinous alike to the morals, worldly prospects, and health of the intemperate. So far, therefore, from encouraging the diffusion of intoxicating liquors among the persons in my employ, I am most desirous of having it entirely excluded, being fully of opinion that the sober operative can perform his labour better, and is much more trustworthy, than one addicted to the intoxicating cup.

I think it would be very injudicious to introduce the sale of intoxicating liquors into a community where it does not now exist, and that the movement now on foot to exclude it from the new county-seat is highly commendable.

Yours, most respectfully,

W. T. CROOK.



Penn's Grove, January 29th, 1850.

Dear Sir—

The communication signed by you as Chairman of the Central Committee is now before me.

In reply to the 1st *Query*, I can unhesitatingly say, that in all cases with which I am acquainted, the excessive use of intoxicating liquors has been highly injurious and demoralizing.

To the 2d I can say, that I would not encourage its use among those I employ, for the reason given to *Query* 1st; and I do not believe that its introduction where it does not exist is desirable.

After having answered the queries briefly and fully, I would add, that if the property-holders at and in the vicinity of the county-seat are desirous that intoxicating liquors should not be there vended, every reasonable effort should be made to second their views. But in the effort to do this there are great difficulties to be surmounted. A law that cannot be evaded must be obtained. If such a law cannot be framed and passed, it were better to submit to the present evil than to *increase* it by familiarizing our citizens to infractions of our laws.

I have the honour to be,

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. LAMMOT.

JOHN P. CROZER, Esq.

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Crosbyville, January 30th, 1850.

Dear Sir—

Your favour of the 21st came duly to hand, but have delayed answering longer than we should have done. And now to your first inquiry say, that as far as our limited observation has gone, that we consider the use of intoxicating liquors, when made use of by individuals and families, as very injurious to such persons in a business

point of view ; oftentimes rendering persons almost useless, that are otherwise fitted to fill situations profitable to themselves and make them ornaments in society.

And to your second—that it has always been our endeavour to discourage the use of such drinks among those in our employ, and believe by so doing we were both benefiting them and ourselves, and an advantage to the business we were engaged in. And, further, that we consider its introduction into a community where it does not exist, would be attended with injury to such neighbourhood, as regards the business and prosperity of such place.

Hoping you will excuse our delay,

We remain yours, respectfully,

J. & D. IRVING.

To JOHN P. CROZER,

JAMES W. DALE,

And others of the Committee.

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Waterville, 2d Month, 20th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Respected Friend—

Believing brief answers to the two queries addressed me on the 13th instant, on the subject of intoxicating liquors, are desired, I reply to the first—visible or known influence, always injurious; to the second—No.

Respectfully,

JOHN M. SHARPLESS.

Upland, February 2d, 1850.

REV. JAMES W. DALE, SECRETARY OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

I am asked for a reply to certain queries having reference to an effort of many citizens of Delaware County, to secure by legislative enactment, a clause in the new Borough charter, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within its proposed limits.

In reply to the first, I answer that, were it not that the practices of men often conflict with the dictates of their judgment (and never more so than in the use of alcoholic drink), I should feel that I was insulting the common sense of our community in affirming that the use of alcoholic liquors tends to destroy the peace, happiness, and well-being of individuals, of families, and neighbourhoods. Most, if not all, of the disputes and quarrels which have ever taken place amongst those in my employ, resulted from the use of liquors; and I have seen so many promising young men ruined, and so much family discord, distress, privation, and despair from the use of the bottle, that I have long since loathed its sight.

The answer to your first query, renders a reply to the second unnecessary.

I think it a most laudable effort to exclude from our common domain the sale of this ruinous beverage.

Let it not be said, with a view to baffle our efforts, that liquors will be sold beyond the precincts of the borough, and in the immediate vicinity. It may be otherwise, and at any rate, the reflection will be consoling that we have aimed to protect the morals of our young men, and of our citizens generally; as most, or all of us, may be called as jurors, witnesses, &c., from time to time—and what youth, what citizen is safe, when necessarily placed for many hours, day after day, in the midst of social drinking, as is the case at hotels and bar-rooms around court-houses during the sittings of the courts?

Respectfully,

JOHN P. CROZER.

Kellysville, Delaware County, March 2d, 1850.

Gentlemen—

I am in receipt of your favour of 18th January, propounding two questions.

1. As far as my knowledge extends, I have known many individuals and families bring a great deal of degradation and misery on themselves by an immoderate use of spirituous liquors.

2. I have been always anxious to get persons in my employ of temperate habits, and much prefer those who do not indulge in intoxicating liquors, as the example of those who take them to excess is bad, and in time, renders them entirely useless.

I believe the safest plan in a community, would be to dispense with its use, and think that society and mankind would be much benefited by a course of this kind.

I shall be much pleased, gentlemen, if your good works in the cause of temperance be successful.

Yours, very respectfully,

CHAS. KELLY.

TO JOHN P. CROZER, Esq.,

Chairman of Central Committee, and others.



## VI.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNTY OFFICERS.

Inquiries were addressed to the Sheriff and to the Steward of the Poor-House, asking what proportion of persons confined in Jail or brought to the Poor-House, were induced to commit crime, or were reduced to poverty by intemperance. 2. To what amount of expense the county was hereby subjected. 3. The County Commissioners were asked whether the expenses of the Jail and the Poor-House were paid by taxation.

Chester, February 9th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

In reply to your communication, inquiring as to the habits of those committed to the County Jail for criminal offences, so far as the use of intoxicating liquors is concerned, I would say that I am unable to speak, but to a small extent, from personal knowledge, having occupied my present official position but for a short time. I have, however, looked through the prison records for the last three years, and from the character of the offences there recorded, from other statistics\* which I have had the opportunity of examining, and

\* The Annual Report of the Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, made to the Legislature, just come to hand, says: "Eighty-four prisoners have been received during the year. Sixty-eight of the number were, by their own confession, addicted to habits of intemperance; sixteen say they were *moderate drinkers*; thus proving that crime which leads to punishment, is almost invariably associated with the *use of intoxicating drinks*. The majority of those who inhabit this prison, in all human probability, would never have been either criminal or convict, had it not been for drunkenness.

"*Every prisoner received into our Western Penitentiary, during the past year, was in the habit of using intoxicating liquor!*" A fact to think about, truly.

from my general observation, I am fully convinced that much the largest proportion of criminal offences committed in Delaware County, are justly attributable to the direct or indirect influence of intoxicating liquors.

Of course the expense to which the county is, hereby, subjected, is proportionate to the offences. In the case of one individual brought repeatedly to jail through intoxicating liquor, the county was subjected to an expense of between three and four hundred dollars. I have seen statistical reports from eleven counties in Pennsylvania, signed by their respective sheriffs or jailors, showing an aggregate number of convicts amounting to 730. Of this number, there were reported 124 temperate, 117 doubtful, and 489 intemperate. If we divide the "doubtful" equally between the other classes, we shall have the proportion of *three-fourths* of our criminals brought to prison by the influence of intoxicating liquors; the same proportion as that declared by Judge Parsons to exist in criminal cases brought before him. I have no reason to believe that the statistics of Delaware County would show a materially different result.

Very respectfully, yours,

J. ESREY, Sheriff.

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Delaware Co. Poor-House, 2d Mo. 5th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

A communication from the Central Committee has been received asking—

1st, What number of persons have been brought to the Poor-House, directly or indirectly, by the use of intoxicating liquors since my connexion with it?

2d, What has been the cost to the County for the support of such persons?

In replying to this communication, I would observe that the amount of expenditure in the aggregate, and the whole number of persons received into the house, is readily and minutely determined

by the official records ; but the particular cause, (the original and efficient, not immediate and ostensible,) cannot always be determined. The use of intoxicating liquors, although ordinarily palpable and readily recognised as a cause, is not always so. This is the case with regard to strangers ; whose manner of life we cannot know, and who, applying for public charity, are under strong temptation to deny the indulgence of a habit which would render them less worthy of that charity. The same difficulty, oftentimes, exists in the case of females and children ; although, not themselves intemperate we cannot say what may have been the habits of husbands or parents, which may have cast them upon the public bounty.

These remarks are made in order to show that if there be any error in the following statements, either as to the number received through the direct or indirect influence of intoxicating liquors, or as to the amount expended by the county for their support, the error must be one that falls short of the facts rather than exceeds them ; inasmuch as those only are set down as brought to the Poor-House through the influence of intoxicating drink, *of whom this is known to be the fact* ; whereas, of many, I have no such knowledge as would warrant me to classify them in any definite manner.

Respecting the expenses of the Poor-House, I would observe that, since my connexion with the Institution, they have been as follows, viz. :—

In 1842, exclusive of \$1100 paid the James' Estate,	\$4492
In 1843,       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	4770
In 1844,       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	4308
In 1845,       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	4460
In 1846,       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	4596
In 1847,       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	5609
In 1848,       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	4920
In 1840, exclusive of \$2870 paid for Crossley property,	4400
Total,	<hr/> \$37,555

To avoid extending and complicating this statement, unnecessarily, I will take the last year as an average for the yearly number of inmates during the last eight years.

During the year 1849, the whole number of inmates was 263. Of these there were 162 males and 101 females.

Of the males I feel the most entire confidence, from an examination of each case, in saying that *five-sixths* have been brought to the Poor-House by the direct or indirect influence of intoxicating liquors.

Of the females, as a whole, my knowledge is much less certain. They, for the most part, when brought at all by the influence of intoxicating liquors, are brought by its indirect operations; and of the previous history of many I am ignorant. Still my knowledge of these is sufficient to say that *one-third* have been brought here by the cause referred to.

Of this proportion, namely, five-sixths of the males and one-third of the females, I can say, confidently, that it is *not too large*. This would make for the whole number, males and females united, a proportion of rather more than three-fifths brought to the Poor-House by the direct or indirect influence of intoxicating liquors. Of the other two-fifths, I think, taking all things into consideration, particularly the want of knowledge, rather than opposing knowledge, as to the real cause of their pauperism, that one half of such cases, making an additional fifth, may be safely set down to intoxicating liquors as the true cause. That is to say, according to the best estimate that I can form, after a close examination of the statistics, the proportion of persons brought to the Poor-House, by the direct or indirect influence of intoxicating liquors, is to the whole number, brought by all other causes, in the proportion of 4 to 1. In other words, where *one* person is, by all the variety of causes which tend to reduce to poverty, thrown upon the charities of the public, *four* are brought to the same condition by the influence of intoxicating liquors.

The entire expenses incurred by the county at the Poor-House during the last eight years, is \$37,555. Three-fifths of this amount would be \$22,533;—or if we take four-fifths, which, for reasons given above, I consider more correct, then we shall have \$30,044 as the amount expended by the county, in eight years, because of the direct or indirect influence of drunkenness.



These statistics are made out on my own responsibility. The communication, however, requesting them was made known to, and approved by the Directors.

CHARLES PALMER, Steward.

Delaware Co. Poor-House, Feb. 9th, 1850.

As physician to the Poor-House for several years past, my experience is entirely corroborative of the above statistics, so far as relates to the number brought to that Institution through the influence of intoxicating liquor. And I would say, with Mr. Palmer, that "if there be any error it is one that *falls short of* rather than exceeds the facts."

JOSEPH ROLAND.

JOHN P. CROZER, Esq.,  
Chairman of Central Committee.

Radnor, Feb. 15th, 1850.

JOHN P. CROZER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Sir—

I this morning received your polite note, addressed to the County Commissioners, containing certain interrogatories, to which I hasten to make the following brief reply.

In answer to query first. The annual appropriation for "the House of Employment," does not vary much from 3500 dollars, that being the estimate of the Directors for the last year. The statement of our account might have stood thus :

Directors of Poor, for House of Employment,	\$3500
“ “ for lands purchased adjunctive to county farm, -	2870
	<hr/>
	\$6370

All the expenses alluded to in your second query, to which may be added "Justices' fees," are usually borne by the county, the parties being seldom able to comply with the sentence of court, when directed to pay "a fine and costs of prosecution."

To conclude. Taxation is the only means to which we can resort, in raising funds to defray the expenses thus incurred.

It will, as you surmise, "afford us pleasure" to extend to you every facility for acquiring any information which we may possess; and I hope you will avail yourselves of any opportunity which may offer for that purpose, whilst we are in session.

I return you thanks for the flattering manner in which you are pleased to notice our endeavour to perform our official duties.

Accept for yourself, and the respectable body over which you preside, assurances of the highest esteem.

Yours, sincerely,

MARK BARTLESON,  
County Commissioner.

## VII.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM HARRISBURG.

The following letters are from our Representative and Senator announcing the passage, through the House and Senate, respectively, of that section of the charter prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors at the new County Seat.

House of Representatives, Harrisburg, February 12th, 1850.

J. W. DALE.

These are to inform you that the Bill to incorporate the Borough of Media passed the House to-day.

A motion was made by Mr. Grier to strike out the 34th section (prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks), which was lost by a vote of 52 to 21, and the bill was passed with that section retained.

Truly yours,

JAMES J. LEWIS.

J. W. DALE,

Secretary Central Committee.

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Senate Chamber, Harrisburg, February 26th, 1850.

REV. J. W. DALE, SECRETARY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Sir—

The Bill to incorporate the town of Media has passed the Senate to-day, restored to the shape in which the committee of lot-holders placed it. You will have the law in a few days.

Truly yours,

H. J. BROOKE.

## FELLOW-CITIZENS—

Our task is done. The end we sought is accomplished. Our county-seat is protected against the fearful woes consequent upon the sale of intoxicating drinks. This result is no party triumph. It is a universal good. Our entire county may and should exult in it as a common blessing and a common glory. All that is desirable has not been accomplished; but all that was practicable has been secured. Our mighty commonwealth has not been redeemed from the evils which roll with torrent power wherever the sale of intoxicating liquors exists; nor yet has our county, small though it be, attained to this freedom; but one mile square of our territory is overshadowed by a banner on whose folds, as in letters of gold, may be read this heart-cheering truth: "INTOXICATING LIQUORS PROHIBITED." By this result a great *principle* has been established. **THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT THE SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS BE STOPPED.**

A great *fact* has been established. *The Legislature is willing to hear and to regard this right.*

Yet another fact has been established. The people of Delaware County sympathize with this right. They have already asked that it be enforced with reference to their county-seat. Will they not soon ask that it shall be enforced with regard to their entire county? A bright hope has been enkindled by this result of your efforts. A spark has been stricken out among the hills of Delaware. To what end! To be extinguished, and thus render our darkness more terrible? Shall this be? "No!" The twenty-two townships of Delaware answer "No!" We will watch over it, and breathe upon it until it burns, and glows, and radiates with beams of truth all over our great commonwealth.

You may claim this result as emphatically your own. The movement of which it is the offspring was peculiarly a home movement. It originated among yourselves. It was advocated by yourselves. These pages are filled with the testimony of those who are a part of yourselves. And when, in the progress of things, the decision of the question was transferred to Harrisburg, your representatives nobly bore aloft the banner you had unfurled, until the fullest triumph rested on its folds.

If these things be true, then the value of this issue is not to be



gauged by the number of roods or acres embraced within the charter limits of Media, but by the value of the principle contended for, and triumphantly won. That principle admits of wider, universal application. The more widely it is applied, the more universal will be the blessing. Can it be necessary that we exhort you to maintain, most unfalteringly, all the ground you have gained? That, under no pretext or name, the right granted unto us be allowed to be violated. Be vigilant. Be firm. Safety can be found only in the most rigid enforcement of charter right.

May the principle you have established be speedily claimed as their heritage by the sister counties of our commonwealth. And when their claim shall be admitted, and the land of Penn shall be redeemed from all laws which tolerate the sale of intoxicating liquors,—then, could the shade of its illustrious founder return among us, he would exult with us that the principles he loved and advocated and practised had at last triumphed!

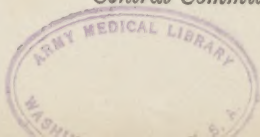
Fellow-citizens! For all that has been achieved, and for all that we hope will be, we give thanks first and highest unto God; next we render appropriate honour to our legislators, especially to our immediate representatives, James J. Lewis and H. Jones Brooke, Esqs.; while we tender our warmest congratulations to you in view of the happy attainment of your wishes.

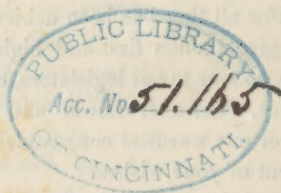
With sincere acknowledgment of the honour that has been put upon us, in being made the organ of communication with you, we now resign our trust.

Your fellow-citizens,

JOHN P. CROZER,  
WILLIAM T. CROOK,  
ENOS SHARPLESS,  
JESSE YOUNG, M.D.  
REV. B. S. HUNTINGTON,  
JOHN C. BEATTY,  
REV. JOSEPH WALKER,  
JONATHAN P. ABRAHAMS,  
MINSHALL EACHUS,  
SAMUEL RIDDLE,  
JONATHAN ESREY,  
SAMUEL M. LEIPER,

GEORGE SMITH, M.D.  
SAMUEL WEST,  
HILL BRINTON,  
GEORGE G. KNOWLES,  
JOHN F. TAYLOR,  
JOHN F. VANLEER,  
JAMES LEWIS,  
WILLIAM T. PIERCE,  
REV. N. HESTON,  
BISHOP HAWS,  
REV. JAMES W. DALE,  
*Central Committee.*





spirituous liquors at vendues, they should speedily be dealt with as disorderly persons, and if they cannot be brought to a sense of their error, disowned."

1784.

"Many just and pertinent remarks being made in this meeting, clearly setting forth the corrupting, debasing, and ruinous effects consequent upon the importation and retailing large quantities of distilled spirits, whereby the intemperate use of them is greatly aided and encouraged, to the impoverishment of many, distempering the constitutions and understandings of many more, and increasing vice and dissoluteness in the land, wherewith many religiously attentive minds have been long painfully burdened; it is the united sense of the meeting, that well-concerned Friends in all quarters, be earnestly excited to suffer the affecting importance of this mighty evil, religiously to affect their minds and animate them with a lively concern and honest endeavours, both by example and loving entreaty, to caution and dissuade all our members from being concerned in the importation or selling distilled spirits, or giving countenance thereto."

1796.

"Under the weight and pressure of the deeply-interesting concern for the maintenance of our Christian testimony against the trading in and use of distilled spirituous liquors, that a gradual and steady advancement thereof may in no respect be impeded, quarterly and monthly meetings are afresh urged to renewed, patient, persevering labour, with such as are in the practice of using or giving them out as an article of drink, manifesting that if continued in by any of our members, it cannot admit of any countenance while there is a faithful adherence to the Divine principle of good will to men."

1834.

"If any in membership with us should distil, trade in, or sell distilled spirituous liquors, except it be for medicinal or chemical purposes, monthly meetings should treat with them as with other offenders, and if they are not prevailed with to desist from the practice, they should testify our disunity with them."



## REMEDY.

PROHIBITION! ENTIRE—UNIVERSAL—FOR EVER.

Until this, only, rightful and effectual remedy can be secured, PECUNIARY RESPONSIBILITY on the part of every vender of intoxicating liquor, both to the community and to individuals, *for all losses and injuries incurred by reason of the traffic.*

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

JOHN P. CROZER, CHAIRMAN.

WILLIAM T. CROOK,  
ENOS SHARPLESS,  
JESSE YOUNG, M.D.,  
REV. B. S. HUNTINGTON,  
JOHN C. BEATTY,  
REV. JOSEPH WALKER,  
JONATHAN P. ABRAHAMS,  
MINSHALL EACHUS,  
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SAMUEL WEST,  
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GEORGE G. KNOWLES,  
JOHN F. TAYLOR,  
JOHN F. VANLEER,  
JAMES LEWIS,  
WILLIAM T. PIERCE,  
REV. N. HESTON,  
BISHOP HAWES,  
REV. JAMES W. DALE.

## CHARTER OF MEDIA.

*Section 34.* "That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to vend or sell vinous, spirituous, or other intoxicating liquors within the limits of said borough, except for medicinal purposes or for use in the arts; and it shall not be lawful for the Court of Quarter Sessions to grant any license or licenses to any Inn or Tavern within the said borough; if any person or persons shall, within said borough, vend, or sell, or cause to be vended or sold, any vinous, spirituous, or other intoxicating liquors to any persons (except as provided for in this section), such person or persons so vending or selling shall be liable to indictment, and on conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence a sum of not less than twenty, nor more than one hundred dollars, at the discretion of the Court."